

Your Lighting and Landscape Assessment – How Do You Want It Spent?

With many of the Lighting and Landscape Assessments at their maximum amount, the CSD will not be able to continue maintaining parks, greenbelts, trails, corridors and medians at the current level. Costs are increasing faster than the assessment rates are allowed to be raised and new parks are being developed in areas in which the assessment has reached the maximum. **It comes down to the citizens of Elk Grove deciding which priorities the CSD should focus on: parks or street medians.**

Background

- The CSD has used Landscape and Lighting Assessment fees, paid by all property and home owners in Elk Grove, to keep over 700 acres of parks, greenbelts, trails, landscaped corridors and street medians safe, manicured and green.
- Landscape and Lighting fees are used for weekly safety checks of play equipment, prepping of ball fields, graffiti removal, litter pick-up, mowing, watering and more.
- Along with maintaining parks since 1985, the CSD has maintained landscaped street medians and corridors since 1987. Initially, this was due to the CSD being the only local agency equipped to perform this type of maintenance at that time. With the responsibility of maintaining landscaped corridors came the ownership of these corridors. **During this past year, the City has changed these conditions. Now the City will own corridors and parks in new developments, leaving the CSD solely as a maintenance entity.**
- **Street median and corridor maintenance is not a new endeavor for the City.** The City currently maintains segments of corridors and medians along Elk Grove-Florin Road, Bond Road and East Stockton Blvd., and has done so since 2003. Roadway improvements and maintenance are a core responsibility of the City, not the CSD.
- **The City has revenue sources for street maintenance purposes already paid by taxpayers.** Included in the City's 2005/06 Fiscal Year Budget, the City projects Gas Tax, Measure A and Street Maintenance revenue balances of just under \$6 million.
- **The CSD is only transferring maintenance of 27-acres of City-owned medians and corridors to the City.** The CSD's intent is not to have the medians go without maintenance. The intent is for the City to maintain **their** property.
- **The CSD will continue to own and maintain 170-acres of existing landscaped corridors.** This includes the green, tree-lined corridors with meandering walkways along Laguna Blvd., Elk Grove Blvd., Bruceville Road, Franklin Blvd. and more.
- Since City incorporation in 2000, there has been no formal agreement developed between the CSD and the City for maintenance of City-owned medians. Therefore, the CSD has no legal right or easement to enter upon or maintain City-owned medians.
- The transfer of maintenance of all City-owned, landscaped street medians and corridors to the City allows the CSD to continue focusing on our core functions of providing high quality, safe parks with the limited Lighting and Landscape funds available.



Landscape and Lighting District Assessment funds are Limited

- **Seven of the thirteen Lighting and Landscape Assessments are at their maximum amount.** The CSD will not be able to continue maintaining parks, greenbelts, trails, corridors and medians at the current level.
- **Costs are increasing faster than the assessment rates are allowed to be raised.** The assessments were raised by 2.2% the past two years and the maintenance contracts increased by 3.5% each year.
- New parks are being developed in areas in which the assessment has reached the maximum.
- **The City has cost the community millions of dollars** by not increasing park development fees and by withholding funding for a regional sports park. These shortfalls must be made up from the Lighting and Landscape District Assessment.



Benefits of the CSD transferring Maintenance of City-owned Medians to the City

- **This transition of responsibility results in new park amenities and improvements at no new cost to residents.** More than \$700,000 of the CSD Landscape and Lighting Assessment fees will be re-directed to park improvement projects requested by the community such as, additional shade structures in parks, renovated playgrounds and walking-fitness trails.
- **Increased ability for the CSD to focus on its core functions of providing quality parks and recreation experiences.** A significant amount of CSD staff time is used to condition, approve, inspect, and administer landscape medians and corridor development.
- **Elimination of median and future corridor maintenance will reduce the need to increase Landscape and Lighting Assessment rates.** Seven of the Lighting and Landscape benefit zones are at or over the spending capacity without a vote to increase rates.



How Do You Want Your Tax Dollars Spent?

The CSD Should.....

- ☐ Continue maintaining 27-acres of City-owned landscaped traffic medians and corridors (15% of all corridors and medians) and delay or eliminate improvements in over 700 acres of parks, greenbelts, trails and landscaped corridors currently maintained by the CSD.

OR

- ☐ Transfer maintenance of City-owned traffic medians and corridors to the City in order for the CSD to focus on maintaining over 700 acres of CSD owned

parks, greenbelts, trails and corridors, while providing additional improvements in parks including additional shade shelters, walking/fitness trails and renovated playgrounds.